THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) A probe was ordered into alleged irregularities by Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) in connection with a tender pertaining to Petronet CCK Ltd. (a joint venture company of oil sector PSUs to implement the Cochin-Coimbatore-Karur product pipeline). However, the probe revealed that all established tender norms and procedure were followed by EIL.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Further, all the Public Sector Enterprises under this Ministry have a separate Vigilance Wing whose functioning is monitored by Central Vigilance Commission and the Chief Vigilance Officer of this Ministry.

Maintaining quality of products in petrol pumps

1641. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the different terminal/depots of oil compnies are suipplying water/sludge with petrol/HSD in Haryana and refund for the said quantity of water is being given to RO dealers;

(b) if so, the measures to maintain the quality of products in petrol pumps;

(c) whether huge quantity of petrol is found short on both the CoCo pumps of BPCL at Chandigarh;

(d) if so, whether it is on account of emasculation or on account of higher evaporation loss; and

(e) how much is the percentage of evaporation loss/handling loss of petrol detected on both these R/O's

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Recently Indian Oil Coporation reportedly had one case of water contamination. The product was taken back and credit was given to the dealer by the concerned oil company. As per procedure, the Retail Outlet dealers are required to conduct the following checks to maintan quality of product:—

(i) Checking of bottom manifold seal and top seals of chambers of the tank truck at the time of receipt of product.

(ii) Checking of density of each compartment of the tank truck.

(iii) Taking samples to each compartment from bottom manifold to check presence of water/sludge.

(iv) Checking of presence of water in underground storage tanks at RO on daily basis and maintaining record. Water from the underground tanks to be pumped out at regular intervals.

(v) Keeping the suction pipe of dispensing unit at least 15Cms above the bottom of the underground tank to prevent accidental entry of water/sludge in the dispensing unit.

(vi) Giving sufficient settling time to the product after unloading the tank truck and before commencing the sale.

(c) to (e) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has one company owned company operated Retail Outlet at Chandigarh. Evaporation/ handling losses of Motor Spirit in this RO is higher on account of operational reasons.

LPG Dealership in the Autonomous hill council area of Assam

1642. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new LPG dealership opened in the State of Assam particularly in the Autonomous Hill Council area of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the details of LPG dealership which are to be established in Assam including hill/tribal areas during the year 1999-2000;

(c) the details of budgetary provisions made by Government for the said purpose during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) 11 LPG distributorships have been commissioned in Assam during the last three years, *i.e.* 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99. No new LPG distributorship was commissioned in Autonomous Hill Council area of Assam during the above period.